

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended to include section headings.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claim 7 was directed to allowable subject matter. In reliance thereupon, original claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 7 and intermediate claim 6. Claims 6-7 have been cancelled. Allowance of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom is respectfully requested.

New claims 13-20 are added by this amendment.

The Official Action rejected claims 5-7 under section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

These claims have been amended so as remedy the stated basis of rejection.

Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 8-12 are believed to be in condition for allowance and their allowance is solicited.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected as anticipated by MICHELSON 6,193,721.

The new independent claims 13 and 17 have been drafted to patentably recite the present invention. The applied art does not teach the recited combination. That is, the specifically recited combination of features is not found in the applied art.

See that new claim 13 recites an anti-slipping device located above the first screw head lodging part, the first bore always being attached to the anti-slip device. This recitation is not met by the applied reference, as the offered anti-slip device and the first bore are separate pieces that are not connected or attached to each other.

Further the specific recitations as to the inventive anti-slip device are not taught by the applied reference. See that independent claim 13 recites a retainer cooperating with the seat so that the retainer passes partly into the first bore whenever the first screw is not being inserted into the first bore. This recitation is not met by the reference as the retainer is a separate element from the first bore and would not normally pass into the first bore, i.e., when the retainer is not mounted to the circular seats 20.

Also see that the claim recites the retainer being elastically deformable when the first screw is being inserted into the first bore. The claim specifically recites that the retainer is elastically deformable under a screw insertion pressure stress. The applied reference does not teach such a retainer. See also that the claim recites that the retainer is elastically deformable to displace the retainer and allow the screw to be passed into and installed into the first bore. Again, the applied reference does not make a disclosure.

The claim also recites the retainer, upon full insertion of the first screw, returning to an original, non-formed position with the retainer positioned above the first screw head. The reference does make any teaching of a retainer, upon full insertion of the screw, returning to an original, non-formed position. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, allowance of claim 13 is solicited.

Further, the features recited in the dependent claims 14-16 are also believed patentable in their own right. That is, that the reference is not believed to teach any of these features. More specifically, the reference does not teach a retainer being an open washer with ends extending into the first floor, wherein the washer ends to form under the pressure stress of inserting the screw to move the ends out of the first bore. Further, the reference does not teach there being a second bore to accept a second screw with the retainer extending into the second bore, the retainer being displaceable to allow the second screw to pass and be inserted into the second bore and then to return to an original, non-formed position.

Accordingly, allowance of each of the dependant claims is solicited since these claims recite features which are patentable in their own right.

Claim 17-20 correspond generally to claims 13-16. These claims are believed to be allowable for similar reasons and

more specifically that the recited combination of features is not found in the prior art.

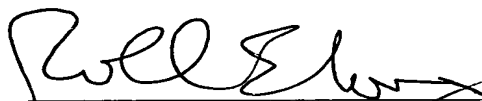
Allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr. (Reg. No. 41,949)
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/psf